(d) whether Government have allocated/propose to allocate funds for the encouragement of naturopathy institutes in the country during the Eighth plan period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) 7 public and about 51 private naturopathy institutions are known to be functioning in the country. The Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy reviews the functioning of institutions which receive grant-in-aid.

(c) Naturopathy emphasises more on prevention and there is no cost of medicines.

(d and (e) Government have allocated Rs. 3.00 crores to Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy and Rs. 1.00 crore to National Institute of Naturopathy during the 8th Five Year Plan.

Setting up of Naturopathy Institutes in States

4667. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Naturopathy is based on "prevention is better than cure" being not only curative but also educative and preventive, besides cheaper than other methods of treatment, though allopaths are internationally averse to it;

(b) whether it is a fact that Naturopathy in our country remained subdued or ignored out of all Indian systems of medicines despite its benefits to the suffering humanity;

(c) whether government propose to set up one Naturopathic Institute in each of the States in view of its benefits; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Naturopathy emphasises more on prevention and there is no cost of medicines.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Setting up of treatment facilities is the responsibility of State Govts. Government of India promotes Naturopathy and also assists organisations involved in the work through the activities of National Institute of Naturopathy & Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy.

Indiscriminate use of Antibiotics in the country

4668. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

SHRI SOM PAL :

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government share the concern expressed by Indian Medical Association at its recent national conference over indiscriminate use of antibiotics in India, which causes several serious side effects many a time hazardous to health;

(b) if so, what measures are being contemplated to keep a check on this misuse and overuse of antibiotics in the country;

(c) whether Government would consider a programme of educating the medical practioners as well as the common man on these asptcts; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (d) Excessive use of antibiotics may cause side effects. In order to promote their rational use, medical practioners are advised to prescribe antibiotics only after clinically diagnosing the disease and informing the patient about the exact regime to be followed during treatment. Further the possible side-effects of the drug are to be highlighted in the package for the guidance of the practioner and the patient. Steps are also taken to educate and update the knowledge of medical practitioners through workshops, seminars etc. in this regard.

Moreover, antibiotics are to be sold only against the prescription of a registered medical practitioner. If chemists supply antibiotics without prescription they are liable for action under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules.

Efforts to check T. B. in the country

4669. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of deaths due to T.B. during the last three years, yearwise;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce a crash programme to detect the T. B. affected persons; if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government will consider supplying nutritious food to the affected people besides providing free medical, aid; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Government propose to obtain financial aid from the World Bank for the treatment of T.B. patients ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (d) 50 deaths per lakh of population are estimated to occur annually on account of T. B. on a countrywide basis. The revised TB strategy proposed to be implemented with World Bank assistance, lays emphasis on achieving high cure rate rather than detection. Supply of free drugs, but not food items, is envisaged.

National Policy for treatment of women suffering from obstetric problems

4670 SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated the National Health Policy for better treatment of women with obstetric problems in the country ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) The National Health Policy 1983 emphasized the improvement of maternal health by following a comprehensive programme for ante-natal and post-natal care and utilisation of the services of trained birth attendants.

The All India Post-partum Programme provides special inputs to hospitals and institutions having facilities for obstetric care.

The Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (CSSM) Programme aims at improving the health status of women and reducing maternal and infant mortality rates and offers services for pregnant women.

National Oral Health Policy

4671. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to formulate a National Oral Health Policy and if so, the details thereof ;

(b) whether a seminar on 'Oral Health Policy in commonwealth Countries' was held recently in New Delhi ;

(c) if so, the details of the countries which participated and the outcome of the talks ; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) There is no such proposal. However, the oral Health issues are taken care of under the general public health programmes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Participants included those from United Kingdom, Malaysia, Singapore, Kenya and India. The outcome of the workshop has not been referred to the Government.